

Psalms 94:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless.

Analysis

The targeting of the most vulnerable—widow, stranger (ger—sojourner, immigrant), and fatherless (yatom—orphan)—demonstrates the depth of wickedness. These three groups appear repeatedly in Torah as specially protected by God (Exodus 22:22-24, Deuteronomy 10:18, 24:17). Murdering (ratsach—unlawful killing) those least able to defend themselves reveals complete moral bankruptcy. This verse establishes God's special concern for the vulnerable and His fierce opposition to those who exploit them.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern law codes (including Torah) included protections for these vulnerable classes, making their murder particularly heinous violations of both divine and human law.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does your treatment of vulnerable people reflect your understanding of God's values?
2. What 'widows, strangers, and orphans' in your context need you to stand up for them?

Interlinear Text

אֶלְלִמָּנָה	וְגֵר	יָהָרְגוּ	וַיִּתְּמוּ יָם	וַיִּרְצְחוּ:
the widow	and the stranger	They slay	the fatherless	and murder
H490	H1616	H2026	H3490	H7523

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:2 (Parallel theme): To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!